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Message Text

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10
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 H-01 L-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-10 MC-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /056 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/EP/E:KGUTHRIE
APPROVED BY ARA: JBKUBISCH
ARA-LA/EP:RFWEBER
PM/SAS:RGREY
DOD/ISA:COL. RIVERS
H:ASCHNEE (SUBS)
ARA - MR. SHLAUDEMAN
---------- 116072
P 060146Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070165

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MASS, EC, US
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOREAN NAVY
REF: QUITO 1798, QUITO 2165

1. IN LIGHT OF LATEST INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY QUITO, WE HAVE AGAIN REVIEWED POSSIBILITIES FOR PROVISION OF U.S. DESTROYERS TO ECUADOR. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CONGRESS MUST BE INFORMED IN ADVANCE ABOUT TRANSFERS OF ANY ACTIVE OR INACTIVE VESSEL. THIS INVOLVES WRITTEN NOTICE AND A WAITING PERIOD OF THIRTY DAYS. (FYI. IN APPROVING OFFER OF SHIPS TO ECUADOR WE HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THAT RE-CENT LIFTING OF FMS SUSPENSION AND STEPS TO RESUME MILITARY PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED PRIMARILY IN EXPECTATION THAT
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THEY WOULD PERMIT REOPENING OF DIALOGUE WITH ECUADOR ON

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SEIZURES PROBLEM AND THAT THIS RATIONALE HAS BEEN STRESSED IN FORMAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR WAIVER PROVIDED TO CONGRESS, IN CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND IN STATEMENTS AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. WE THUS CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT COMPLETION OF ANY SHIP TRANSFERS MIGHT HAVE TO BE RECONSIDERED IF IN THE MEANTIME THERE WERE RENEWED SEIZURES OR IF WE FAILED TO MAKE PROGRESS IN GETTING TALKS STARTED WITH GOE. ON BASIS OF EMBASSY'S RECENT REPORTING, WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROVISION OF SHIPS WOULD FACILITATE RESOLUTION OF SEIZURE PROBLEM. IF IN YOUR JUDGMENT GOE IS STALLING AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL AGREE TO

OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, YOU SHOULD DELAY OFFER OF SHIPS AND CONSULT FURTHER WITH DEPARTMENT. END FYI)

2. WITH REGARD TO A SO-CALLED "HOT SHIP TRANSFER," THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE IS JULY 1975, AT WHICH TIME ONE DESTROYER COULD POSSIBLY BE AVAILABLE. TO MAKE A DESTROYER AVAILABLE SOONER WOULD REQUIRE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE U.S. DESTROYERS. FYI - THERE ARE URGENT REQUESTS FOR "HOT SHIP TRANSFERS" OF DESTROYERS FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES. STATE AND DEFENSE HAVE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY ON NEXT AVAILABLE VESSEL TO ECUADOR. END FYI

3. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACTIVATE AND OVERHAUL A DESTROYER FROM THE INACTIVE FLEET. THE PROBABLE COST CANNOT BE ESTIMATED ACCURATELY BUT WOULD BE IN EXCESS OF DOLS 5 MILLION. NEITHER CAN WE REALISTICALLY ESTIMATE THE TIME THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR OVERHAUL, SINCE IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE CONDITION OF THE VESSEL AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SHIPYARD SPACE. PROBABLY IT WOULD REQUIRE MORE THAN A YEAR. THE VESSEL WOULD BE TRANSFERRED "AS IS" TO THE EN AND THEY WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LETTING THE OVERHAUL CONTRACTS. HOWEVER, USN WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE FMS ADVICE AND TRAINING IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER.

4. THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW CONSTRUCTION REMAINS, BUT THIS WOULD REQUIRE TWO AND ONE-HALF TO THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS
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FOR A KNOX CLASS DE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND THE DESIRE OF ADMIRAL VASQUEZ TO IMPROVE THE INVENTORY OF SHIPS IN THE EN AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THE US IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. IF THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF AN OPERATING DESTROYER OVERRIDES ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WITH THE EN,THEY MAY BE ABLE TO DO BETTER BY TURNING TO OTHER SOURCES, AL-

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THOUGH DELAYS OF AS LONG AS WAITING PERIOD FOR US DESTROY-
ERS ARE LIKELY IN ANY TRANSACTION OF THIS TYPE.

6. TEXT OF A LETTER FROM ADMIRAL ZUMWALT TO ADMIRAL
VASQUEZ DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN MORE DETAIL IS BEING
SENT BY SEPARATE CABLE. IF TEXT IS SATISFACTORY, AM-
BASSADOR MAY WISH TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY IN THE CONTEXT
OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH ADMIRAL VASQUEZ IN WHICH YOU
SHOULD ASSURE HIM OF THE DESIRE OF THE USN TO COOPERATE

IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE EN'S MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WITHIN
THE CONSTRAINTS OF OUR OWN POSSIBILITIES.

7. WE CONCUR IN YOUR PROPOSAL IN QUITO 2165. CNO WILL
REQUEST THAT USCINCSO MAKE COMNAVSO, REAR ADMIRAL R.H.
BLOUNT, AVAILABLE TO JOIN YOU IN DELIVERING REPLY TO
REAR ADMIRAL VASQUEZ, ALONG WITH A COMMANDER FROM NAVY'S
SECURITY ASSISTANCE DIVISION IN WASHINGTON TO ACCOMPANY
R.ADM. BLOUNT TO PROVIDE FMS EXPERTISE. PLEASE CONFIRM
IF YOU DESIRE R.ADM. BLOUNT'S PRESENCE AND ADVISE DATE
YOU PLAN TO DELIVER CNO'S LETTER. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SHIPS, NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE070165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KGUTHRIE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740078-0290
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740460/aaaacdfy.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: QUITO 1798, QUITO 2165
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSISTANCE TO ECUADOREAN NAVY
TAGS: MASS, EC, US
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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